

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

June 12 2018

Present: Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Deanna Schuetz, Tim Welch, Pat Bachetti,

Absent: Dori Bynack, Joan Sizer, Elaine Bemont

Audience: Christina Cenac from Somers Human Services, Lori Craddy from Champ's Place, the food pantry at Somers Congregational Church, Eileen Fedorowich, David Pinney from the Somers Housing Authority.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by chairman Deanna Schuetz.
2. Phyllis moved and Pat seconded the motion that the minutes of the 05 08 18 meeting be accepted as written. Motion carried.
3. Tim moved and Pat seconded the motion that this be an open meeting. Motion carried. Deanna expressed regret that Eileen Fedorowich has resigned from the committee. A short discussion followed about a replacement from Woodcrest for her position.
4. **Woodcrest Discussion:** Deanna stated that the priority of Somers Human Services and the Somers Senior Center is to be sure that the needs of Somers seniors are being met and she is looking for ways to improve relations and communications between Woodcrest and Somers Human Services. Over the past few years she has reached out to Woodcrest staff and residents through meetings and written notices. It is her understanding that the Woodcrest resident services coordinator is responsible for handling the human services needs of the Woodcrest residents but sometimes Woodcrest residents are coming to Somers Human Services for help. Some residents seem reluctant to speak to staff at Woodcrest. The RSC is not a trained CHOICES counsellor who could give unbiased information about medical insurance needs and sometimes commercial insurance representatives who are selling a product have been asked to present information to Woodcrest residents.
Deanna explained the policies of the Somers Dial-a-Ride and said it is available to Woodcrest residents on the same basis as it is to other Somers residents.
Woodcrest is an independent living facility and there was a question about entrance criteria and if there were ongoing assessments of residents to be sure they remained independent. David said it is the responsibility of the RSC to make home visits to assess residents' abilities. A question was asked about fire safety at Woodcrest and the status of the smoke and CO detectors. The fire chief has held informational sessions at Woodcrest but there has been no recent fire drill.
David explained the conditions of the propane contract and the propane maintenance fee. There will be a management change at Woodcrest but current staff will remain.
Ms. Craddy stated that Champ's Place wants to get information to seniors about the food pantry but the food pantry cannot deliver food.
Deanna asked David how to go forward with improving communication with Woodcrest. David offered to be the go-between and bring concerns to Woodcrest staff.
5. **Conduct Policy Update:** At the May 31 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Senior Center Code of Conduct was approved with some adjustments.

6. Medicare Savings Program Update: On May 9, the MSP was fully restored at the current income level for this fiscal year.

7. Meals on Wheels Application: Tim moved and Pat seconded a motion that the current draft of the MOW application be approved with the addition of phone numbers of the MOW coordinator and the Senior Center. Motion carried.

8. Old Business: none

9. new Business: none

Tim moved and Phyllis seconded the motion to adjourn at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

